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BOOKLET SERIES No. 3.

THE CRISIS IN... HAUSALAND

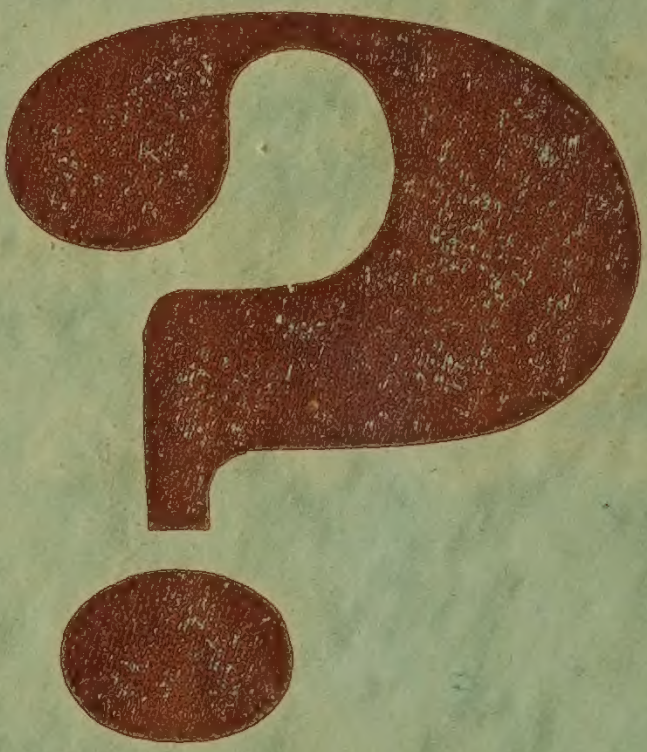
THE WEST AND CENTRAL SUDAN

SUDAN UNITED MISSION

PRICE ONE PENNY.

Sudan United Mission

CHRIST OR MOHAMMED?



CROSS OR CRESCENT?

Object:

TO win for Christ the heathen nations of the Sudan, numbering many millions, who are rapidly going over to Mohammedanism, for the lack of Christian workers

AFRICA AND THE SUDAN.

The Crisis in Hausaland

The West & Central Sudan

"*This day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace; if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief would come upon us; now therefore come, that we may go and tell* , , ."—2 Kings vii. 9.

HE SUDAN (Arabic for "land of darkness") is today from east to west, and north to south, under European control. With the dawn of the twentieth century the hand of God has opened the Sudan. From Abyssinia across to the Atlantic, and from Egypt south to the Great Lakes,

a new world has within a decade passed under Christian rule. The Mahdi has fallen, the Nile has become British; the Niger is divided between England and France; a New German protectorate sweeps from the Gulf of Guinea up to Lake Chad, and shares with France and England the States of the Central Sudan. The power of Islam, which for a thousand years has swayed the Sudan, has been broken, and the Church of the twentieth century is confronted with

A VAST NEW WORLD to win for CHRIST.

A country larger than the whole of Europe, minus Russia, with from 50 to 80 million people, is waiting to be evangelized. There are large kingdoms in the Sudan just as there are in Europe. Here is a list of the greatest, with the Mission work that

is being done in them. Beginning in the east we find—

Name of Land.	Size.	Government.	Missionaries.
1. KORDOFAN	England	British	None
2. DARFUR	France	,,	,,
3. WADAI	Italy & Ireland	French	,,
4. BAGIRMI	Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, and Tasmania	,,	,,
5. KANEM	Greece and Denmark	,,	,,
6. ADAMAWA	Turkey in Europe	German	,,
7. BORNU	England	British	None
8. SOKOTO and BENUE RIVER	Japan	,,	8 C.M.S. 11 S.U.M.
9 GANDO	Scotland and Ireland	,,	None
10. NUPE	Bulgaria	,,	13 Canadians.

Besides these there are about 100 distinct free heathen tribes in the Sudan with not a missionary amongst them. The fifteen Mission stations in the Sudan—Khartum, Omdurman, Dolaib Hill, Bor, Lokoja, Zaria Kuta, Bida, Patagi, and Wushishi, Shonga, Bukum, Langtang, Dampar, and

Donga—are about as far apart as if in Europe we had two stations at Stockholm (Sweden), two in Christiana (Norway), one at Cadiz, and about ten in the neighbourhood of Lisbon, with no preachers of the Gospel in England, none in Scotland, none in Ireland, none in France, none in Germany, none in Austria, none in Italy, Turkey, or Switzerland, Denmark, Holland, or Belgium.

IN NORTHERN NIGERIA ONLY (which within the past few years has definitely come under British rule), a country more than three times as large as Great Britain, and, with twelve million people, waits to be evangelized.

THERE IS URGENT NEED FOR MISSIONARY WORK to be widely done *at once* in these regions, for unless Christianity be brought to them, the heathen populations of the lands of the Sudan will go over to Islam.

Missionary testimony on this point is very strong and striking. We subjoin extracts from Bishop Tugwell, the Rev. J. Aitken, Dr. Miller, and Canon Sell, all of whom urge, that unless Christianity is immediately brought to Hausaland and the West-Central Sudan, these immense and populous regions will in a few years become Mohammedan.

BISHOP TUGWELL'S TESTIMONY.

"The Hausa and Nupe countries," writes Bishop Tugwell, "are now open to the preachers of the Gospel. For many years earnest prayers have ascended from the lips of God's people that the door to these countries might be opened. Thank God, their prayers have been answered, and the door stands now, not ajar, but wide open. Oppression, tyrrany, and the slave trade have received, we believe, their death-blow, and an oppressed people are now free. But where is the army of occupation? The British force is an effective occupation: but what of the army of the Church of Christ? . . *There are large heathen tribes in the Hausa countries who are longing for the advent of the Christian teacher.* The Guaris, with whom

I came into contact three years ago, begged me to send them teachers. These tribes will become Mohammedan if they do not become Christian. . . Sir F. Lugard has recently written very kindly of the work of Dr. Miller and Mr. Anthony, and is quite prepared to support their efforts. . . Pray that the Church of Christ may prove worthy of her trust."

REV. J. AITKEN'S TESTIMONY.

"I have just visited Kporo where they are waiting for their long-promised teacher. They told us that they spent each Sunday by gathering together and talking over what was said to them by our agent on the previous Monday. They also added the following piece of news: All the people behind them have ceased working on Sunday, because it is the Sabbath Day of the white men who have kept the Fulani (Moslem slavers) from coming to their country. To honour the white men, they cease from work on the white man's Sabbath Day.

"Are not the fields here already white unto harvest? At present they are open to us. They hate Mohammedism, because thousands of their friends and villages have been enslaved under its direct laws. If, however, we do not quickly step in, from constant

intercourse with Mohammedans under English rule they will soon forget their old wrongs, they will embrace the religion of the false prophet, and be no longer open to us as now.

"When I came out in 1898 there were few Mohammedans to be seen below Iddah. Now they are everywhere, excepting below Abo, and *at the present rate of progress there will scarcely be a heathen village on the river banks by* 1910. Then we shall begin to talk of Mohammedan Missions to these peoples; and any one who has worked in both heathen and Mohammedan towns knows what that means."

"They have ceased working on Sunday, because it is the Sabbath Day of the white men"!

The whole case lies in a nutshell, in this one little picture. The white men have entered. The white men's religion may enter if it will. The children of the Sudan are standing at the crossways, with a bent to follow the white man's path. But the white teachers do not come. Islam, with strong, swift strides, arrives instead.

DR. MILLER'S TESTIMONY.

"Under British rule there will be an inrush of traders, *malams*, and all sorts of Mohammedans into these countries. Greater intercourse will lead to a desire to be received into a big social system, which not only has great prestige of its own, but is evidently, in the eyes of the white conquerors, a much superior thing to heathenism. The African forgets at once. Cruelty, feuds, oppression will soon be forgotten, obliterated, and I foresee a very great revival in all this country of Islam by purely peaceful methods. . .

"I wish to plead specially for the country immediately south and west of us, extending 150 miles—a beautiful, comparatively healthy country, containing almost every kind of supply for food, high plateaus, frequent large towns and villages, of peaceful, prosperous people, all heathen, but bound to become Mohammedan in the course of a generation. . . . There is no time to lose."

CANON SELL'S TESTIMONY, FROM MADRAS, INDIA.

"There are times when it is very difficult to balance the competing claims of various parts of the Mission field. I see no difficulty

now. . . . Certain parts of Africa form now, in military language, the objective, and are the strategical positions of the great Mission field. . . Parts of Africa in which the Moslem advance is imminent have for the present a pre-eminent claim. The absorption of Pagan races into Islam is so rapid and continuous that in a few years' time some may be quite lost to us. . . .

"I believe the Church has very little conception of the real state of the case. . . . The call to immediate and more extended operations is loud and clear. The conscience of the Church needs rousing to the very serious condition of affairs."*

Three other great facts contribute to the call for immediate extended missionary work in the West-Central Sudan :—

1. The existence and prevalence of

THE HAUSA LANGUAGE,

Hausa, the trade tongue of the whole Western Sudan, is spoken by millions in Nigeria.

* For the full letters from which these extracts are taken see the C.M.S. *Intelligencer* for June, 1903, p. 411; also for January, 1903, and May, 1902.

"In the whole country, north of Zaria," writes the Rev. G. Bargery, a C.M.S. worker there, "the people are Mohammedans, but in the country stretching from Zaria southwards to the River Benue, and eastward, so as to include the huge Adamawa State . . . In this enormous tract of country the people are mainly Pagans. . . . Three years ago it would have been impossible to start work among the heathen tribes. . . Now the aspect is completely changed. The whole country is wide open, and where are the servants of CHRIST who are to go and claim these peoples for Him? *With a knowledge of the Hausa language* a man could preach and work in almost any town or village of the heathen Guari, Kadara, Kadji, Ahoo, or any other tribe, as well as in those of the Mohammedan, Fulani, or Hausa."

This language can be learned from Hausa-speaking natives in Tripoli or Tunis by workers designated to Nigeria, who would thus acquire the *Lingua Franca* of the Western Sudan, inexpensively, in a good climate, without risk to health.

2. COMPARATIVE HEALTHINESS OF THE CLIMATE OF THE UPPER

BENUE.—Parts of North Nigeria (especially on the Upper Benue) are high and comparatively healthy. The heavy death-roll of devoted workers on the West Coast would not be likely to be repeated in the uplands of Adamawa, whose mountains rise to over 8,000 feet above sea level, or in the Bautchi Hill district, of which Sir Frederick Lugard, the recent High Commissioner for Northern Nigeria, wrote, "The Bautchi Hills enjoy a charming climate." There is reason to hope that the comparatively healthy conditions which surround the Uganda Mission of the Church of England in the heart of Central Africa, may be repeated for the Upper Benue Mission in the heart of the Sudan.

3. ACCESSIBILITY OF KINGDOMS OF THE WEST-CENTRAL SUDAN AND THE UPPER BENUE.—These regions are accessible by the water highway of the Niger and Benue rivers. Steamers of the Royal Niger Com-

pany ply regularly between the coast and Yola, the capital of Adamawa. Ibi and Yola, it is felt, would form desirable bases for missionary work.

Focussing the fore-mentioned facts we find that :—

1. These lands are newly conquered, and thus open ; Moslem opposition can no longer prevent Missions, as it has done in past years.

2. The Slave Shackles have fallen from whole nations. Delivered from slave raiders, the heathen peoples ask for and welcome white teachers.

3. The Governments of Great Britain and Germany, which control in the West Sudan alone, areas larger than their home-countries, and 35 million non-Christian peoples, are both friendly towards Christian Missions.

4. The Upper Benue district, especially, is comparatively high and healthy, probably in this respect the best part of the whole Sudan.

5. These lands are within easy reach by steamer-communication, up the Niger and Benue rivers.

6 Finally and chiefly, these lands are in a temporary state of religious solution. The heathenism of the past cannot endure. Islam is arriving, has arrived Shall Islam prevail?

SHALL ISLAM PREVAIL?

Shall we allow it? Shall we, who have been entrusted by GOD with the evangelization of the Sudan (the ancient Ethiopia), hand over those who are calling us to teach them, hand these dark souls over to a slavery worse than any they have ever known before — to Mohammedanism, to the green flag of the false prophet? Shall we lose a field which promises a greater Uganda? Lose it? No! but by a united effort of all those interested in the coming of the Kingdom of our LORD and of HIS CHRIST let us strive as Lightbearers

to hasten the time when "Ethiopia shall stretch out her hands unto GOD."

It is now . . or never.
It is Christ . or Islam.

"What can I spare?" we say;
"Ah, this and this.
From mine array
I am not like to miss.

And here are crumbs to feed some hungry one;
They do but grow a cumbrance on my shelf"—
And yet one reads our Father gave His Son
Our Master gave Himself.

—*Frederick Langsbridge.*

The Cry from Hausaland.

Hausaland ! thy sons whose crying
  Beckons us from thy far shore
Deep in the heathen darkness lying
  Begging morsels from our store—

Shall we hear thy voice unheeding ?
  Turn away unwilling ears ?
No ! our own souls, so much needing,
  Help us recognize thy tears,

Blessed Jesus ! Thou shalt lead us
  By the way thyself hast trod,
Till the land of Ethiopia
  Stretches out her hands to God.

Frank Aust

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SUDAN UNITED MISSION.

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DIRECTORS.

Very Rev. J. MUNRO GIBSON, M.A., LL.D., London.
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Donations to JAMES ANDREW, Esq, Chartered Accountant, 63 Norfolk Street, Sheffield.

London :

MARSHALL BROTHERS,

Keswick House, Paternoster Row, E.C.